

McClain (A.D.)

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MYXOMA,

OR

HYPERPLASIA OF THE VILLI OF THE  
CHORION.

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*With the authors  
Compliments*

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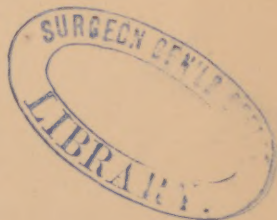
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## MYXOMA, OR HYPERPLASIA OF THE VILLI OF THE CHORION.

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MYXOMA, or Hyperplasia of the Villi of the Chorion, are terms expressive of a morbid condition which has hitherto attracted but little attention from pathologists. Hypertrophy of one or more villi of the chorion has been occasionally noticed. Nothing like extensive growths, however, of this nature are mentioned in works on Midwifery or Diseases of Women. The ordinary hydatidiform or vesicular mole is familiar to all of us, either from the description of writers, or the actual observance of specimens which are not very infrequent in their occurrence. A condition of things resembling the specimen to which I am about to direct the attention of the Society is described by Virchow in his work on the Pathology of Tumors, under the title of fibrous myxoma of the placenta. But the extraordinary specimen described and figured by this learned pathologist was comparatively limited in extent, for it was confined to one of the cotyledons of an otherwise healthy placenta of a seven months foetus: whereas in the specimen now under consideration all of the villi of the chorion are implicated in this remarkable hypertrophy. The distinguished pathologist, already referred to, attributes abnormal conditions of the chorion villi to an endometritis of the decidua; and has observed, in several instances, inflammatory thickening in the caduca, or membrana decidua of the vesicular mole.

Mrs. —, æt. 40, mother of seven living children, young-

est about four years old, aborted after her first and fifth conceptions about the third month. She married at the age of nineteen years, since then has suffered, more or less, from indigestion and constipation, but has had a fair appetite and continued moderately fleshy. Catamenia, regular, with some pain, were last present on Jan. 27th, 1868. Not long afterwards I was called to visit her, and found her suffering from nausea, heartburn and general discomfort of the stomach and bowels; no vomiting. Having experienced similar sensations after former conceptions left little doubt in her mind that she was again pregnant. Except the discomfort already alluded to, nothing remarkable occurred until the 10th of May, when she noticed, for the first time, her linen slightly stained with a somewhat bloody matter which appeared at intervals, for the next four days, with a slight pain occasionally felt in the uterine region.

Near midnight on May 14th, she was suddenly seized with an alarming hæmorrhage, causing her to faint and become pale, as if dead. She had recovered her senses before I arrived, but the pallor which remained, together with the appearance of the bed on which she lay, bore evidence of a frightful loss of blood.

On examination, the uterus felt like that of a woman in the fifth month of pregnancy; the os rigid, though sufficiently dilated to admit the index finger. Hæmorrhage had ceased. Careful examination of the clots discovered only a small foetus having the appearance of full three months growth. Restoratives were used and the vagina plugged to prevent further hæmorrhage. The uterus remained quiet during the remainder of the night, and on the following morning the tampon was replaced by a fresh one and ergot administered. The uterus appeared to partake of the general physical prostration consequent upon the profuse hæmorrhage, and it responded more feebly to the influence of the

means employed than might be expected in an organ so largely developed. A large sponge tent was then substituted for the tampon, and the ergot continued. This dilated the cervix and excited uterine contractions, expelling large quantities of bloody fluid, and *opaque, flattened, flesh-colored bodies, irregular in size and form, many of which looked like pieces of decidua, generally longer than they were wide and measuring from about three to ten or twelve lines in length; others consisted of tuberosities strung together by more or less elongated and constricted portions. Many of these strings measured from two to five inches in length.\* All of these bodies were covered with a thin membrane (exochorion), from which sprung numerous bud-like processes, varying from one to three lines in length.* Nowhere did these growths present the vesicular appearance which characterizes hydatidiform degeneration of the chorion villi, and when placed in a basin of water they sank to the bottom like pieces of flesh. Sponge tents and ergot were repeated at intervals, followed by discharges similar to that described, though gradually lessening in quantity, but the last of these bodies were not expelled until the eighteenth day from the time of the first hæmorrhage. No membranes were found, although these might have escaped notice among such masses. The quantity of these bodies discharged would more than fill a quart measure.

On microscopic examination of these bodies (which had been in alcohol for nearly twelve months) they were found to consist, essentially, of mucous tissue, or more literally, cells, with here and there an indistinct fibrous appearance. Fatty metamorphosis had commenced in the tissue. The largest tuberosities contained masses of blood corpuscles and granular debris. No bloodvessels were found, although searched for diligently.

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\* Vide Plate, Fig. A, B, C.



Since the time of Aristotle, some writers have asserted that degeneration of the chorion villi is consequent upon the death of the embryo, while by others the contrary of this is maintained. Without entering into discussion, this one fact may be pointed out for the benefit of those who do not believe pathological changes of the chorion villi the result of the death of the embryo; viz., that before us is a foetus of full three months development, accompanied by one of the most remarkable conditions of the chorion villi perhaps ever observed.



## HYPERPLASIA OF CHORION VILLI.



OUTLINES OF THREE VILLI (OR MAY BE ONLY PORTIONS OF VILLI).

- A Nearly five inches in length, and one inch in greatest breadth; one-fourth inch greatest thickness.
- B About one-sixteenth inch in thickness.
- C Another form of villus.





